



## Montana Communicable Disease Weekly Update: 01/08/10



### DISEASE INFORMATION

**Summary – Week 52 – Ending 01/02/10** – Disease reports received at DPHHS during the reporting period December 27, 2009 – January 2, 2010 included the following:

- Vaccine Preventable Diseases: *H. influenza* (untypeable) invasive disease (1), Pertussis (2)
- Enteric Diseases: Giardiasis (1), Salmonellosis (1)
- Other Conditions: None
- Travel Related Conditions: None

*NOTE: The spreadsheets have multiple pages, each indicated by a tab in the bottom left corner. Tabs on the worksheet reflect the following: (1) vaccine preventable and enteric diseases YTD; (2) other communicable diseases; (3) cases just this week; (4) clusters and outbreaks; and (5) an STD summary.*

### THE “BUZZ”

Though pandemic flu activity continues to fall across much of the Northern Hemisphere, the World Health Organization reports that some parts of the world are hot spots for the virus, including parts of Europe, North Africa, and South Asia. [Read CIDRAP article...](#)

### Influenza

During week 52 (12/16/09), influenza activity continued to decrease in the U.S., with only one state reporting widespread activity and 12 states regional activity. Influenza and pneumonia mortality was slightly below the epidemic threshold of 7.5% at 7.4%. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.4% which is slightly above the national baseline of 2.3%. Ninety-nine percent of the influenza [viruses](#) identified so far are 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception.

**UPDATE! Activity in Montana** – Activity in Montana was lowered to the **SPORADIC** level. There are still cases being reported; however, the number of PCR confirmed cases has dropped significantly. Information on testing can be found at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/environ-lab-index.shtml>. **2009 influenza A (H1N1) continues to predominate - no other subtypes of influenza A are circulating at this time in Montana.**

**IMPORTANT! Hospitalized/Death Reporting** - *Please report all laboratory confirmed (PCR, rapid test, viral culture positive) hospitalized cases and deaths due to all types of influenza to the local health department who will then report to the state. Period of interest: August 30, 2009 – present.*

**Even though influenza incidence is decreasing, influenza is unpredictable and there may be increases in disease again. People who have not been vaccinated should get vaccinated now!**

Vaccination with 2009 H1N1 vaccine continues to be particularly important for people in the initial target groups, including pregnant women; household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than six months of age; health care and emergency medical services personnel; all individuals six months through 24 years of age; and individuals 25 through 64 years of age who have medical conditions associated with higher risk of complications from influenza. It is important for unvaccinated people in these groups to take advantage of the ample vaccine supply and get vaccinated now. In addition, people 65 years and older as well as people 25-64 who do not have a chronic medical condition are encouraged to get vaccinated now. While older people have been less likely to be infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus compared to younger people, there have been severe infections and deaths from 2009 H1N1 in every age group, including people 65 and older. Some outbreaks among older people living in long-term care facilities also have been reported.

## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT.....

**NEW! E. coli O157:H7 Outbreak and Related Beef Recall** - On December 24, 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a recall notice for 248,000 pounds of beef products from National Steak and Poultry that may be contaminated with *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (*E. coli* O157:H7). The recall was issued after FSIS determined there was an association between non-intact steaks (blade tenderized prior to further processing) and illnesses in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, South Dakota and Washington. As of Monday, January 4, 2010, 21 persons from 16 states were reported to be infected with the outbreak strain. Illness onset dates ranged from October 3 through December 14, 2009. ***As of January 8, 2010, no reports of E. coli O157:H7 associated with this recall have been received in MT.*** For more information on this outbreak and the associated product recall, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2010/index.html>.

**NEW! Multistate Outbreak of Salmonellosis Associated with Water Frogs** – In an MMWR Report published on January 8, 2010, the CDC reported on a national outbreak of *Salmonella typhimurium* associated with water frogs. As of December 30, 2009, there were 85 human isolates with the outbreak strain from 31 states. In a multistate case-control study, exposure to frogs was found to be significantly associated with illness and in 14 cases, there was specific exposure to an exclusively aquatic frog species, the African dwarf frog. This is the first reported multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* infections associated with amphibians. Educational materials aimed at preventing salmonellosis from contact with reptiles should be expanded to include amphibians, such as aquatic frogs. CDC has published guidelines for consumers on how to reduce the risk for *Salmonella* infection from amphibians and reptiles (available at <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typh1209/index.html>).

## INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW! Reporting Reconciliation** – CDEpi will begin the process of reconciling 2009 data in January. Watch for line lists sent via ePASS from Elton Mosher. Please review these line lists to ensure that disease cases that we have match those that are in your records. *Goal is to have this activity completed by March 1, 2010!* Thanks for your assistance!

**NEW! iLINC on Rash Illnesses** – If you missed the iLINC on Rash Illnesses last week, it was recorded and will be available on the Training and Communication Center (TCC) <https://www.montanapublichealthtcc.org> sometime within the next two weeks.

## 24/7 AVAILABILITY

The Communicable Disease Epidemiology program is available 24 hours a day/7days a week/365 days a year. Please call 406.444.0273 if you need immediate communicable disease epidemiology assistance. The answering service will take a message and we will return the call as quickly as possible.

*This newsletter is produced by the Montana Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program. Questions regarding its content should be directed to 406.444.0273 (24/7/365). For more information: <http://cdepi.hhs.mt.gov>.*